

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02287 051315Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 AGRE-00 AID-05
EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /087 W
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P R 041513Z AUG 77 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6274
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
RUFHGVXUSMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 357
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2287

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, ZA, RH
SUBJ: U.N. AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION GROUPS AND
RHODESIAN REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA

REF: (A) STATE 175511; (B) GENEVA 6481; (C) ROME 12489

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN REFTEL A,
FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM LUSAKA SOURCES MAY BE
A HELPFUL SUPPLEMENT TO REFTELS B AND C.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING UNHCR REP. LUSAKA, HIS OFFICE
IS NOT ACTING AS COORDINATOR OF THE WFP ASSISTANCE TO BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZAPU). THE ONLY
ROLE PLAYED BY THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICE WAS TO BRING TOGETHER
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ZAPU AND WFP/UNDP IN EARLY JUNE WHEN
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ZAPU PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE UNHCR.
CURRENTLY THE MECHANICS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WFP
COMMODITIES, YET TO BE DELIVERED, ARE BEING WORKED OUT
(REFTEL C). ACCORDING TO LOCAL UNDP OFFICIAL, THE OPERATING
AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DRAFTED, BUT NOT YET SIGNED BY ALL THE
PARTIES--PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZAPU), GRZ, OAU AND WFP/UNDP.
OFFICIAL'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WHEN THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED

AND THE COMMODITIES BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN OCTOBER THEY WILL BE BROUGHT INTO ZAMBIA AND TURNED OVER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZAPU) FOR DISTRIBUTION. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL UNHCR REP, THE ONLY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT HIS OFFICE HAS HAD WITH FOOD FOR RHODESIAN REFUGEES WAS UNHCR'S FINANCING OF A FLIGHT OF MATERIAL, INCLUDING SOME FOOD DONATED BY WEST GERMAN VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARRIVED IN ZAMBIA JULY 26. THIS WAS TURNED OVER TO ZAPU FOR DISTRIBUTION (REFTEL B, PARA 2). THE FOOD ON THIS FLIGHT WAS CONSIDERED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BRIDGE THE GAP UNTIL THE INAUGURATION OF THE WFP PROGRAM IN OCTOBER. THE UNHCR REP. FORESEES NO FURTHER UNHCR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SUPPLY OF FOOD TO ZAPU REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA.

3. WHEN THE MATTER OF A "BULK" PROGRAM FOR RHODESIAN REFUGEES OPERATED BY THE UNHCR WAS RAISED WITH LOCAL REP HE WAS SOMEWHAT INCREDULOUS. HE POINTED OUT THE UNHCR, IN KEEPING WITH THE ORGANIZATION'S BASIC MANDATE, IS NOT AN OPERATIONAL ENTITY HERE IN ZAMBIA. IN ZAMBIA, AS ELSEWHERE, THE UNHCR WORKS THROUGH IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES WHICH CAN EITHER BE THE HOST GOVERNMENT, OR RECOGNIZED VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, UNHCR'S IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FOR THE ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA IS THE ZAMBIAN CHRISTIAN REFUGEE SERVICE (LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION). OF COURSE, ALL UNHCR PROGRAMS IN ZAMBIA ARE OPERATED WITH THE PERMISSION, KNOWLEDGE AND OCCASIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT.
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4. UNHCR REP. CONFIRMED THAT CURRENT UNHCR POLICY ON ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIAN REFUGEES WAS THAT SET FORTH IN PARA 1 (E) REFTTEL B. HOWEVER, HE MADE VERY CLEAR THAT WHILE HIS OFFICE IS AUTHORIZED TO DEAL WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT COMPONENTS (ZAPU AND ZANU (MUGABE)) AS ORGANIZATIONS, RHODESIAN REFUGEES REGARDLESS OF GROUP AFFILIATION WOULD BE AFFORDED ANY SERVICES THEY QUALIFIED FOR AS REFUGEES ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. HE ALLUDED TO THE REQUEST TO FUND TRANSPORTATION OF MUZOREWA SUPPORTERS OUT OF ZAMBIA (PARA 1 (D) REFTTEL B) AS EVIDENCE OF LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENT POLICY.

5. LOCAL UNDP AND UNHCR OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE ZANU REQUEST FOR WFP ASSISTANCE (PARA 5 (A) REFTTEL C) IS FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE.

6. IN EFFECT, CURRENT LOCAL PRACTICE APPEARS TO BE THAT SWAPO AND PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE GRZ TO MAKE THEIR OWN DEALS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS LONG AS THE GRZ IS CONSULTED AND HAS APPROVED THE PROPOSAL. ADDITIONALLY, THE U.N. AGENCIES ARE NOT WILLING TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS WITH LIBERATION GROUPS UNTIL THE SPECIFIC, INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM HAS

BEEN APPROVED BY BOTH THE OAU AND THE GRZ. IT IS UP TO THE LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS TO SECURE THE NECESSARY GRZ AND OAU APPROVALS.

7. COMMENT: THE LOCAL UNDP OFFICE MADE TWO REQUESTS TO IT HEADQUARTERS FOR AN AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE OAU RESOLUTION ON ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE RESPONSE RECEIVED HAS BEEN, WE BELIEVE, DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS. UNDP'S GUIDELINES ARE THAT IT IS PERMISSABLE TO DEAL WITH ZAPU AND ZANU (MUGABE) AS ORGANIZATIONS SINCE THEIR REQUESTS WILL BE APPROVED BY THE OAU. THE UNDP AND UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES ARE PUZZLED, AS IS THIS EMBASSY, BY THE WAY THE OAU SUMMIT RESOLUTION IS BEING INTERPRETED BY UNHCR HEADQUARTERS. TO DECIDE THAT "AFTER CONFIDENTIAL

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DECISION LAST OAU SUMMIT, CONSIDER PATRIOTIC FRONT OF ZIMBABWE AS SOLE LIBERATION MOVEMENT HENCEFORTH RECOGNIZED BY OAU..." (REFTEL B) SEEMS TO US TO OVERSTATE THE INTENT OF THE DELIBERATELY IMPRECISE RESOLUTION.
LOW

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